

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 66

Introduced by Assembly Member Waldron
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Allen, Brown, Chávez,
Beth Gaines, Grove, Medina, Melendez, Olsen, Quirk-Silva, Salas,
Wagner, and Wilk)

June 13, 2013

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 66—Relative to Internet crimes.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 66, as introduced, Waldron. Internet Crimes Against Children Awareness Month.

This measure would designate October 2013 as Internet Crimes Against Children Awareness Month and state that the Legislature supports increased funding for the Internet Crimes Against Children task forces, online communications systems, or computer technology to help detect the sexual exploitation of children, updating reporting laws, and strengthening disclosure laws.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Computers and the Internet have become prevalent
- 2 in California homes, schools, and libraries; and
- 3 WHEREAS, In 2010, 85 percent of children 3 to 17 years of
- 4 age had access to a computer at home, and almost 57 percent used
- 5 the Internet at home; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Children and adolescents commonly use computers
- 7 for playing games, completing school assignments, word
- 8 processing, e-mail, and connecting to the Internet; and

1 WHEREAS, Education is the single most common motivation
2 parents cite for their children to use the Internet from home; and

3 WHEREAS, While the Internet has helped to make education,
4 entertainment, and socialization more accessible for youth, it has
5 also made child victimization easier for predators; and

6 WHEREAS, Physical contact between the child and the
7 perpetrator does not need to occur for a child to become a victim
8 or for a crime to be committed; and

9 WHEREAS, Many victims of Internet crimes do not disclose
10 their victimization or even realize that they have been victims of
11 a crime; and

12 WHEREAS, Predators contact children over the Internet and
13 victimize them by enticing them through online contact for the
14 purpose of engaging them in sexual acts, using the Internet for the
15 production, manufacture, and distribution of child pornography,
16 using the Internet to expose youth to child pornography and
17 encourage them to exchange pornography, and enticing and
18 exploiting children for the purpose of sexual tourism (travel with
19 the intent to engage in sexual behavior) for commercial gain or
20 personal gratification; and

21 WHEREAS, Pornography is often used in the sexual
22 victimization of children. About 25 percent of children have been
23 exposed to unwanted pornographic material online; and

24 WHEREAS, One in seven children have received a sexual
25 solicitation online; and

26 WHEREAS, In the 2009 fiscal year, task forces participating
27 in the federal Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force
28 Program reported nearly 28,000 complaints, including child
29 pornography, enticement or obscenity directed to minors, and child
30 prostitution. These complaints resulted in more than 13,000
31 investigations; and

32 WHEREAS, Parents, school officials, law enforcement officers,
33 and other adults can prevent Internet crimes against children by
34 taking various measures, including keeping computers in open
35 areas, monitoring the amount of time a child spends online, and
36 educating children about the dangers of Internet crimes; now,
37 therefore, be it

38 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
39 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature designates October 2013
40 as Internet Crimes Against Children Awareness Month to educate

1 parents, children, and the general public about the critical issue of
2 Internet crimes against children statewide in order to protect
3 children against unspeakable crimes; and be it further
4 *Resolved*, That the Legislature supports increased funding for
5 ICAC task forces, online communications systems, or computer
6 technology to help detect the sexual exploitation of children,
7 updating reporting laws, and strengthening disclosure laws; and
8 be it further
9 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
10 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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